

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A picture tube having a mask frame assembly for securing a tension mask inside said picture tube, the mask assembly comprising:

a support blade structure formed of a material having a first coefficient of thermal expansion;

an insert member formed of a material having a second coefficient of thermal expansion and a thickness which is greater than a thickness of the tension mask, the insert member having a plurality of apertures positioned along the length of the insert member and a mask receiving edge to which said tension mask mask is applied; and,

fastening portions, at least one fastening portion connecting said insert member to said support blade structure at a generally central location of the insert member and said remaining fastening portions connecting said insert member to said support structure through said apertures whereby the opening of said apertures are dimensioned to have a respective clearance for loosely receiving a respective fastening portion.

2. (previously presented) The picture tube of claim 1 wherein the support structure further comprises first and second interlocking halves.

3. (currently amended) The picture tube of claim 2 wherein the fastening portions ~~comprises~~ comprise tabs located along an edge of the first half.

4. (currently amended) The picture tube of claim 1 wherein the opening-openings of said apertures are dimensioned to permit the fastening portions to slide within the apertures along the length of the insert member permitting the insert member to move relative to the support blade structure.

5. (previously presented) The picture tube of claim 3 wherein each tab comprises a narrow portion and a wide portion.

6. (previously presented) The picture tube of claim 5 wherein the narrow and wide portions are separated by a stop surface.

7. (previously presented) The picture tube of claim 6 wherein the stop surface abuts a surface of the second half.

8. (previously presented) The picture tube of claim 1 wherein the fastening portions comprise fasteners passing through the apertures of the insert member.

9. (currently amended) A picture tube having a support blade structure for a tension mask frame assembly, the support blade structure comprising:

an insert member connected to the support blade structure at a generally central location of the insert member, the insert member being formed of a material having a thickness which is greater than a thickness of said tension mask and further comprising a plurality of apertures extending from the central location along its length and a mask receiving edge to which said tension mask mask is applied; and,

fastening portions extending through at least one of said apertures to connect the insert member to the support blade structure wherein the apertures are dimensioned to be larger than the fastening portions to permit movement of the support structure relative to the insert member along the length of the insert member.

10. (previously presented) The picture tube of claim 9, wherein the insert member and the support structure are formed of a material being of different coefficient of thermal expansion.